

## Message Text

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EUR-12 IO-14 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /102 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0619

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TAGS: EG, PGOV

SUBJ: EGYPTIAN WAFD PARTY LEADER INTERVIEW

LENGTHY "EXCLUSIVE" INTERVIEW WITH EGYPTIAN WAFD PARTY LEADER  
FUAD SIRAJ AL-DIN, PRINTED APRIL 3 IN KUWAIT DAILY AL-QABAS,  
HAS SIRAJ AL-DIN MAKING FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. REGARDING SADAT'S PEACE INITIATIVE, ARAB RANKS MUST  
BE "UNIFIED ANEW" IF THERE IS TO BE PEACE ALONG WITH RECOGNITION  
OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. ALSO, RENEWAL OF EGYPTIAN DIPLOMATIC  
RELATIONS WITH ESTRANGED ARAB COUNTRIES IS A "VITAL DEMAND."  
(SIRAJ AL-DIN SKIRTED THE QUESTION OF WHETHER WAFD SUPPORTS  
SADAT'S INITIATIVE BUT DID NOT SEEM TO BE DIRECTLY CRITICAL.)

B. ON RELATIONS WITH THE US AND SOVIET UNION, WAFD  
"SUPPORTS" SADAT'S POLICY BUT EGYPT SHOULD BE NEUTRAL AS  
BETWEEN THE TWO "BLOCS" AND RELATIONS SHOULD BE FRIENDLY WITH  
ALL COUNTRIES WHICH DEMONSTRATE FRIENDSHIP TO EGYPT. CURRENT  
ASSISTANCE FROM THE "WESTERN BLOC" IS "NATURAL."

C. CONCERNING ALLEGATIONS THAT THE WAFD LEADERSHIP IS  
DISUNIFIED, IT IS NORMAL AND TRADITIONAL FOR A PARTY WHICH HAS  
MEMBERS WITH VIEWS RANGING FROM LEFTIST TO RIGHTIST,  
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REPRESENTING A WIDE POPULAR BASE, TO HAVE INTERNAL DEBATES.  
ONCE PARTY POLICY IS FIXED, HOWEVER, PARTY LOYALTY IS REQUIRED  
AND ANYONE WHO DISSENTS WOULD BE EJECTED FROM THE PARTY.  
THIS HAS NOT YET HAPPENED. WAFD COMMITTEES ARE NOW DRAWING  
UP POSITIONS ON NUMEROUS DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN ISSUES,  
WHICH WILL FORM THE BASIS OF PARTY POLICIES. OFFICIAL PARTY  
OPINION IS NOW EXPRESSED BY THE WAFD PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY

GENERAL. MUSTAFA HALIL (SEC. GEN. OF ARAB SOCIALIST UNION)  
SPOKE "NONSENSE" WHEN HE CLASSIFIED WAFD AS A PARTY OF THE  
EXTREME RIGHT.

D. PRESS COVERAGE OF WAFD IN EGYPT IS UNFAIR. THE THREE  
DAILIES ARE OWNED AND OPERATED BY THE ARAB SOCIALIST UNION  
AND ARE THUS SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT CONTROL THROUGH SELF-  
CENSORSHIP BY EDITORS WHO FEAR FOR THEIR JOBS. THE  
DAILIES IGNORE OR DISTORT WAFD PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND OTHERWISE  
REFUSE TO PUBLICIZE WAFD LEADERS' THOUGHTS. THEREFORE, WAFD  
PLANS TO PUBLISH VERY SHORTLY "FREE NEWSPAPERS," BOTH DAILY  
AND WEEKLY.

E. WAFD WILL NOT CONTEST THE UPCOMING SPECIAL ELECTIONS TO  
FILL TWO VACANT SEATS IN THE PEOPLES ASSEMBLY, BUT WILL CONTEST  
BOTH SPECIAL AND GENERAL ELECTIONS IN THE FUTURE WHEN THE PARTY  
IS PROPERLY ORGANIZED. PRESIDENT SADAT IS TO BE COMPLIMENTED  
FOR PERMITTING THE EGYPTIAN PEOPLE TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHTS MORE  
FULLY -- PERMITTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OPPOSITION.  
MAESTRONE

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## Message Attributes

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